

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-17, 22-25 and 28-36 are pending in this application. Claims 30-34 are new. Of these, claims 1, 22, 28 and 31 are independent.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 7, 9-11, 13-17 and 26-27, claims 1 and 22 are amended to incorporate features of allowed claim 11 (now canceled) and claim 27 is rewritten in independent form as new claim 31 (including limitations of claim 22). Claims 18-21 are cancelled.

New claim 30 depends upon claim 1 and is supported by paragraph [0025] of the specification. New claims 32 - 34 depend upon new claim 31 and are based upon original claims 23 - 25, respectively.

No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

Of the pending claims in this application, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12 and 22-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,976,527 to Kirshberg et al. (hereinafter "Kirshberg"). Respectfully, we disagree.

Claim 1 is amended to include limitations of claim 11 is therefore deemed allowable, based upon Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in paragraph 5 of the pending final office action. Moreover, Applicants submit that Kirshberg does not teach the limitations of claims 2, 4-6, 8 and 12 in the context of claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections to claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8 and 12.

Claim 22 is also amended to include limitations of claim 11 and is therefore deemed allowable. Moreover, Applicants submit that Kirshberg does not teach the limitations of claims 23-25 in the context of claim 22. As such, Applicants also respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections to claims 22-25.

In view of the above amendments, it is believed that all 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections have been addressed.

New claim 30 depends from claim 1 and includes the limitation of the wicking structure being formed of microgrooves as disclosed in paragraph [0025] of the specification. Claim 30 is therefore also deemed allowable.

Docket: 200316167-1

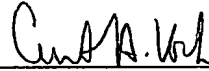
New claim 31 is equivalent to claim 27 rewritten in independent form and is therefore deemed allowable, based upon Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 32-34 depend from claim 31 and are also deemed allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants solicit allowance of claims 1-10, 12-17, 22-25-34.

Applicants believe no fees are due for new claims 30-34, since claims 11, 18-21 are cancelled. Applicants believe no other fees are due in connection with this response. If any fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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